

“There is no such thing
as a natural-born pilot.”
– Gen.
Charles Yeager

Inside Scoop

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Mission status:

(As of Nov. 14)

Days ahead or behind with
mission capable rate

T-37	-1.79	86.1%
T-1	+0.3	83.4%
T-38	-3.2	69.5%

Countdown to ORI:

17 days

Laughlin delivers food for the hungry

By Airman 1st Class
Yvonne Conde

Public affairs

About 30 enlisted dorm residents here recently volunteered their time and energy to help provide holiday meals for the less-fortunate families in the Del Rio area.

The airmen ran the Third Annual Enlisted Dormitory Food Drive that ended Monday. Their efforts gathered 3,052 food items through base-wide donations.

“This beats last year’s total of 2,728 items,” said Senior Airman Sean Flansbaum, enlisted dormitory food drive director here. “Thanks go out to every single one of you [who helped] to make this year better than last year.”

Each squadron had an airman representative in charge of collections, and dorm people volunteered time from their weekends to sit in front of the commissary collecting nonperishable food items.

“To me, this is a way to keep the giving spirit [alive],” said Airman Flansbaum. “The volunteers for the drive this year demonstrated the true



Photo by Airman 1st Yvonne Conde

Airman 1st Class Christian Lewis, 47th Operations Support Squadron air crew life support journeyman, and Senior Airman Sean Flansbaum, 47th Civil Engineer Squadron engineer technician, unload a truck with donated food items Wednesday at the Bethel Center in Del Rio.

heart of the single enlisted of our base.” Everyone really pulled through with the donations and the co-director did a great job helping to direct the food drive, he said.

“It feels good that you’ve helped someone in need,” said Airman 1st Class Ronette McBean, enlisted dormitory food drive co-director here. “This also shows Del Rio that young adults can organize an event for a worthwhile cause.”

The goods were delivered to the Bethel Center of Val Verde Wednesday where they will be distributed to needy families within the commu-

nity. The Bethel Center is an organization that receives monthly donations from 11 local churches to aid people in time of crisis.

“Laughlin comes to our rescue at this time yearly since our budget is low by the end of the year,” said Olivia DeLeon, Bethel Center director. According to DeLeon, the local churches and schools within the community help out for the holidays, but Laughlin is the biggest contributor.

“The food is stored and lasts a few months since the need is overwhelming,” she said. “May God bless Laughlin for all their help.”

Team XL contributes \$86,865 to CFC

Compiled from staff reports

Base employees contributed an average of more than \$38 apiece to the Combined Federal Campaign that wrapped up Nov. 1. Laughlin’s generosity added up to \$86,865 for the CFC.

“Once again the 47th Flying Training Wing came through,” said Capt. Charley Parent, wing project officer.

“Our only goal was 100 percent contact of all workers and our unit key workers made sure everyone had an opportunity to contribute. It is great to see the whole base get behind a very good

cause,” he added.

“Every unit at Laughlin should be proud that Team XL cares selflessly about the needs of our community and those less fortunate,” added Col. Dan Woodward, 47th FTW commander.



Commanders' Corner

Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training Wing commander

Be safe this holiday season

The joyous holiday season is upon us and the safety of our people is my top priority. I want each and every one of you to enjoy this special time of year with your family, friends and loved ones. You are all a vital part of the Laughlin mission and I encourage you to be cautious this holiday season.

History has shown that during the holiday season, there are more alcohol-related injuries and deaths on our streets and highways than any other time of the year. In 2001, alcohol contributed to nearly 40 percent of the total number of traffic fatalities

between Thanksgiving and New Years, and over 50 percent of the traffic fatalities on Christmas Day. This holiday season, if individuals choose to drink and drive, they will lose. They may lose their license, their vehicle, their life, or worse, kill an innocent victim.

Please join the 47th Flying Training Wing as we work together this holiday season to ensure that we can all travel safely and be free from the threat of alcohol-impaired drivers.

I want to remind our Laughlin community to use common sense this

holiday season. Do your part – don't drink and drive. Designate a non-drinking driver, be a responsible party host, and join me in support of Mothers Against Drunk Driving's Tie One On For Safety campaign. Drive sober and remind others to do the same by tying a red ribbon to a visible place on your vehicle.

Please join me in support of this exceptional program and make this holiday season a safe and special one.

Pick-up your red ribbon today at the Health and Wellness Center, and "Tie One On" for safety.

Why worry about computer security?

By Master Sgt. Keith Korzeniowski
and Jack Worthy

45th Communications Squadron

PATRICK AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Before going to bed at night, do you leave your front door unlocked? When parking your car, do you leave the keys in the ignition? Probably not. You automatically take precautions to secure valuables.

Information is a valuable asset for our national security. In the computer age, information has become the lifeblood of many companies.

Failure to safeguard information as you would your home or other assets is ludicrous. Unfortunately, according to a 1999 study done by the University of California all too often security measures are either minimized or ignored by 26 percent of the entire information technology and automated information system communities.

For those in the know, the need for computer security measures is apparent. Even though data assets can be lost, damaged or destroyed by various causes, information systems tend to be susceptible for several reasons.

First, computer components are relatively fragile. Hardware can be damaged more easily than, for example, tools in an auto repair shop. Data files are ex-

tremely fragile compared to other organizational assets. Second, computer systems are targets for disgruntled employees, protestors and even criminals. Finally, decentralization of facilities and use of distributed processing have increased vulnerability of information and computers.

There are many ways to protect and prevent access to computer systems, from physical security involving locks and guards, to measures embedded in the system itself. Since end users have access, each represents a potential vulnerability. Many security measures begin with you.

Here are some guidelines:

- Know your unit information systems security officer, and information assurance awareness manager, and phone numbers for the network control center's C4 help desk.
- Ensure your system is certified and accredited. Systems designated to handle classified information must

complete an emission security assessment before processing is authorized.

- Practice good password creation and protection. Ensure passwords contain at least eight characters, including upper and lower case alpha, numeric and special characters, and are exclusive to your system.
- Use a password-protected screensaver when leaving

See 'Computer,' page 3



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Deadlines, Advertising

News for the Border Eagle should be submitted to the 47th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 338, Laughlin AFB, TX, 298-5262. **Copy deadline is close of business each Thursday the week prior to publication.**

Advertising should be submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald, 2205 Bedell, Del Rio, TX, 774-4611. Advertising should be submitted by 4 p.m. each Friday.

Submissions can be e-mailed to: timothy.stein@laughlin.af.mil or yvonne.conde@laughlin.af.mil.

‘Computer,’ from page 2

- your computer unattended.
- Share information only with people and systems authorized to receive it.
 - Always scan disks, e-mail attachments and downloaded files using the latest antiviral product and signature file.
 - Know the sensitivity level of the information you’re processing, requirements for protecting it, and security limitations of systems used to transmit it. Sanitize processing and storage devices.
 - Know the basics of data contamination, malicious logic, and virus prevention and detection.
 - Avoid virus hoaxes and chain letters.
- The telecommunications moni-

toring and assessment program governs consent to monitoring. Notification of consent is approved through signed permission and is placed on DOD computers, personal digital assistants, local area networks, external modems, phones, fax machines, text pagers, phone directories, and land mobile radios.

Being a base network user is like being a member of the local community, which provides services to its citizens. Just as a community has laws, the network has policies.

First, e-mail is for official use only. Policy is addressed in Air Force Instruction 33-119, Electronic Mail Management and Use. Forbidden activities include sending or receiving e-mail for commercial or personal financial gain, and sending harassing, intimidating, or offensive

material to or about others.

Like e-mail, Internet or Web access provided by the network is for official use only. AFI 33-129, Transmission of Information via the Internet, provides guidance on proper use of the Internet. Do not transmit offensive language or materials, such as hate literature and sexually harassing items, and obscene language or material, including pornography and other sexually explicit items. The AFI also prohibits obtaining, installing, copying, storing or using software in violation of the vendor’s license agreement.

Before downloading software from the Internet, keep in mind much of the freeware or shareware is only free for personal use. Licenses for many programs exclude use by the government or commercial compa-

nies.

If you break the law in your community you can face serious consequences. What may be less known is that violating network policies also has consequences. A captain at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, was sentenced to nine months’ confinement, a \$10,000 fine and a reprimand for conduct unbecoming an officer for using an Air Force computer to download and store pornographic images.

The base network is an unclassified system and a shared resource. One careless user sending a classified e-mail over the network can mean the loss of e-mail and shared drive access for hundreds of users until the system is cleared. As a member of the base network community, be a good citizen.



Col. Dan Woodward
47th Flying Training
Wing commander

Actionline
Call 298-5351

This column is one way to work through problems that haven't been solved through normal channels. By leaving your name and phone number, you are assured of a timely personal reply. It's also very useful in case more information is needed in order to pursue your inquiry. If you give your name, we will make every at-

tempt to ensure confidentiality when appropriate.

If your question relates to the general interest of the people of Laughlin, the question and answer may also be printed in the Border Eagle.

Before you call the Actionline, please try to work the problem out through the normal chain of command or directly with the base agency involved.

Thanks for your cooperation, and I look forward to reading some quality ideas and suggestions.

AAFES	298-3176
Accounting and Finance	298-5204
Civil Engineer	298-5252
Civilian Personnel	298-5299
Commissary	298-5815
Dormitory manager	298-5213
Equal Employment Opportunity	298-5879
FWA hotline	298-4170
Hospital	298-6311
Housing	298-5904
Information line	298-5201
Legal	298-5172
Military Equal Opportunity	298-5400
Military Personnel	298-5073
Public Affairs	298-5988
Security Forces	298-5900
Services	298-5810

Retreat

Comment: I was in my car in the housing area, when I heard the music for retreat. I stopped my truck and told my daughter to open her window so we could hear the music better. Some people were in their driveway washing their vehicle, and even though the music was playing they continued to wash their car. My daughter asked me why they didn’t come to attention. I didn’t have an answer for her.

This may sound petty, but my husband and I are both active duty and we are teaching our children to have pride for our nation. On several occasions outside of our house, my family showed proper respect and our neighbors continued to do what they were doing. On one occasion we were pointed to and giggled at. Maybe our neighbors’ spouses did not brief their counter parts in that part of military life.

Answer: Retreat marks the end of the military day and honors

the flag as it is lowered and all base residents and visitors should react appropriately when it is sounded. The bugle call “Retreat” precedes the flag ceremony. At the first sound of the bugle, face the flag, or sound of the bugle if the flag is not visible and stand at parade rest. When you see the flag being lowered or hear bugle call “To the Colors: or the national anthem, come to attention and render a salute. The salute is held until the flag is lowered or until the music ends. Military members wearing civilian or athletic clothes and ci-

vilians should stand at attention and face the flag or music with their right hand over their hearts. Vehicles should stop and the radio, if on, should be turned off. Everyone, including the driver, should remain quietly seated.

Proper protocol for retreat should be rendered regardless of location on base, and I hope our base members and visitors consider it an honor, not an obligation, to pay respect to this symbol of freedom that we’ve chosen to protect and defend on a daily basis.

Everyone counts – DoD aims for fewer suicides

By Sgt. 1st Class
Doug Sample

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The rate of suicides in the military has declined in recent years to 12 per 100,000 – two-thirds the national average. But that’s still not good enough for Department of Defense health care officials.

During an open forum Tuesday at the Marine Corps’ Henderson Hall in Arlington, Va., Army, Air Force and Navy representatives joined a panel of mental health experts to begin planning a yearlong campaign aimed at reducing suicides in the military even further.

“Just because we’ve been successful doesn’t mean we stop focusing on the problem,” said Lt. Col.

(Dr.) Rick Campise, suicide prevention manager and consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General. “If we become complacent, we’re only inviting suicide rates to go back up again.”

Army Lt. Col. (Dr.) Elspeth Ritchie, program director of Mental Health Policy and Women’s Issues, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, said forum participants would analyze military suicide prevention programs and determine their effectiveness.

“The number of suicides have gone down because all the services have (been using) very aggressive suicide prevention programs,” Colonel Ritchie said. “The focus of the

See ‘Suicides,’ page 5



Photo by 1st Lt. Paula Kurtz

Mower for hire...

Col. Victor Hnatiuk, 47th Mission Support Group commander, mows the lawn of Maj. Franziska Chopp, 47th Flying Training Wing staff judge advocate. Major Chopp paid \$250 to have Colonel Hnatiuk mow her lawn in the Officers Spouses Club Charity Auction held Nov. 1. The auction raised \$9,155 for scholarships for DoD members and their family.

ORI preparation

The *Border Eagle* offers tips to help Laughlin members prepare for the Operational Readiness Inspection, which takes place in two weeks.

Assessment Day: Look at your own documentation and see where you were and where you are today. Not knowing about a problem area will get you in trouble. If you are aware of a problem, but cannot fix it in the next couple of weeks, document why and what effort is being made to correct the deficiency. What you can fix, fix now.

Blow your own horn: Start to think about what you want to tell the ORI team about your organization. Review your in-brief and spice it up with all the great things you’ve accomplished since the team’s last visit and the things you plan to accomplish.

First shirts and supervisors should brief everyone in their squadron on what to expect. Remember to stress fresh haircuts, polished boots, clean and neat uniforms and military courtesies.

Everyone should know all the job functions of each shop. Sit down and brainstorm better, simpler ways of producing a quality product.

Programs and problems: Can each of your people discuss the governing regulations/standard operating instruction? Check everything. Are government drivers’ license current? Are classified working papers labeled correctly? In the absence of the regular section chief, who fills in? Is

Newslines

the job done properly? This is the week to get your story straight.

Section chiefs should visit each of their sections this week. This is where experience starts to pay off. Establish standards for personnel to follow during the ORI.

Personal appearance week: Have an open ranks inspection. Take a look at uniforms. In particular, patches, velcro that is coming unstitched, ragged BDUs and hats that need an oil change. There is plenty of time to make corrections and new nametags.

Friendship Pool

The Friendship Pool is operating under its winter hours. It is open for lap swim Tuesday through Friday from 6 to 8 a.m. It is open for recreational swimming Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The pool is closed Mondays. The cost is one dollar for recreational swimming, there is no cost for active duty lap swimmers.

For more information, call 298-5830.

Children’s holiday party

A children’s holiday party is scheduled for 5

p.m. Dec. 5 at the Club XL, following the wing Christmas tree lighting at the base chapel. There will be a tree lighting, hayride caroling and two castle bounces. There will also be a buffet where children 12 and under eat free. The buffet costs \$7.95 for adults. Santa Claus will also be there to take photos with the children.

For more information, call 298-5111.

Suicide briefing

There will be a required annual suicide prevention briefing for all military members at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday at the base theater and Dec. 3 and 4 at the Anderson Hall auditorium. Military members who have not had this briefing in the calendar year must attend one of the briefings.

Lock up buildings

The 47th Security Forces Squadron reminds everyone to lock their building at night. Due to the ORI many people are working extended duty hours. Remember to secure the building if you are the last one out.

Access channel

The slide format for the commander’s access channel, cable television channel 34, has changed. Slides should be in power point format and may now contain graphics, but no animation.

New edition of Air Force TV News airs on commander’s access channel

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – How authorities would respond to a nuclear accident is spotlighted in the latest edition of Air Force Television News, now airing at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday on the Laughlin commander’s access channel, cable TV channel 34.

Staff Sgt. Bronwyn Tardo was on hand in rural Wyoming as airmen from F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyo., joined members of several federal, state and local agencies in an exercise testing response to a highway accident involving nuclear material.

Staff Sgt. Bill Scherer reports from Hanscom AFB, Mass., on a new base gate security system that not only makes entrances to Air Force bases more secure, but re-

duces traffic congestion during times of heightened security. Senior Airman Kevin Dennison goes to Minot AFB, N.D., to report on base entomologists fighting a never-ending battle against pests like mosquitoes, dakrats (a rodent resembling a prairie dog) and bees.

In other news, Staff Sgt. Marty Rush examines a recent addition to Warrior Week during Air Force basic training that involves introducing trainees to the gas chamber. Tech. Sgt. Paul Firman sits in at the training school for prospective members of the Air Force Honor Guard, where the criteria is tough, but the rewards more than compensate for the rigorous training. And, Staff Sgt. Pachari Lutke goes to the Florida coast to highlight a lighthouse owned by the

Air Force that has been a blinking beacon of light for mariners for more than a century. It is still in operation and is used for every space shuttle launch from Cape Canaveral.

Air Force Television News is a biweekly production of Air Force News Service. It is distributed on videotape to more than 3,000 military and civilian outlets worldwide, and is seen on more than 700 cable television outlets nationwide. It is also available on the Internet at www.af.mil and can also be seen regularly on The Pentagon Channel. The program is the only military production offered with closed captioning.

Viewers can comment on the program by sending e-mail to: aftvnews@afnews.af.mil.

‘Suicides,’ from page 4

forum will be to look at each service’s programs and come up with a ‘unified approach’ to suicide prevention.”

DoD statistics show the Air Force as having one of the more successful prevention programs among the services. Between calendar 1991 and 2001, the suicide rate among airmen fell from a high of 15.9 per 100,000 in 1994 to 5.6 per 100,000 in 1999 – nearly a two-thirds decline.

Colonel Campise, who unveiled the Air Force’s latest tool in preventing suicides, an interactive Web site, credited the decline in suicides among airmen to leadership and community involvement.

Colonel Ritchie said the forum would also address how to provide suicide prevention and intervention for National Guard and Reserve members.

Regardless of the strategy, major parts of the campaign will focus on educating service members that suicide is preventable and to teaching them what signs and symptoms to look for, she said.

Those signs include depression, alcohol

abuse, and family issues due to frequent deployments, retirement or loss of military careers, Ritchie remarked. Other warning signs to look for include decreased ability to concentrate, a change in appetite or sleep, irritability, loss of energy, and feelings of guilt, she added.

Colonel Ritchie noted the military’s current high op-tempo in the war on terrorism, increased deployments and the threat of war seem to have no direct influence on military suicide rates.

“The rates have remained close to the same,” she added. There has been a “small fluctuation” in the number of suicides in the past year, she said, but military suicides are still well below the national average.

“Our rates are lower than the civilian world, that’s true. But irrespective of our rates being lower, they are still too high,” Colonel Ritchie said. “Any suicide is going to have a major effect of the unit in terms of people feeling, ‘What should I have done?’”

In terms of morale, she said, “Everybody is affected. Everybody hurts. So suicides really affect our military readiness as well.”

17 airmen receive high honors for heroism

By Tech. Sgt. David Donato
Air Intelligence Agency Public Affairs

NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, Nev. — Seventeen members of the 66th and 58th Rescue Squadrons here were honored recently for their heroic actions and bravery in aerial flight while supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Distinguished Flying Cross, one of the military’s highest combat decorations, was awarded to: Maj. John Galik; Capts. Brent Beaulieu, John Mangan, Phillip Swenson and Jeremy Turner; Tech. Sgts. Troy Durocher, Patrick Harding and Robert Sullivan; Staff Sgts. Michael Ames, Michael Darin, Caleb Etheridge, Joshua Faine, Joshua Fettes, Gaylord Howe Jr., Robert

Roberts III and Gregory Sisco; and Senior Airman Michael Flores.

The airmen were recognized for their roles in two separate missions during Operation Anaconda in March in Afghanistan.

On the night of March 2, two HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters assigned to the 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron launched to bring back critically wounded troops from a small valley surrounded on three sides by enemy forces.

The first helicopter, Gecko 11, entered the valley

under intense small arms fire and located the landing zone. Almost immediately after landing, the crew was targeted by machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. One mortar round

detonated within 50 feet of the aircraft.

As the para-rescuemen from Gecko 11 began loading the in-

jured, the flight crew guided the second aircraft, Gecko 12, in to land safely while an AC-130 gunship provided close-air support.

That night, the Gecko 11 and Gecko 12 crews rescued nine soldiers from the battle-

field.

On March 3, another two-ship mission put two different helicopter crews into another harrowing rescue situation.

“At the time, we weren’t really thinking about anything other than executing the mission,” said Turner, the flight commander on the second mission. “All the training we do every day kicked in, and we did our job.”

The March 3 mission began with a rescue call that ended shortly after takeoff when the helicopter crews were notified that the retraction site was under intense fire. They were redirected to an alternate refueling and rearming point and put on a 30-minute alert posture.

Fourteen hours later the crews were notified they

needed to navigate through enemy-controlled mountainous terrain in low-illumination skies.

Gecko 11 located the landing zone, which was under mortar attack, and directed Gecko 12 in. After loading all the injured, both helicopters departed to a forward refueling area with less than nine minutes of fuel remaining.

The crews saved three lives that night, according to officials.

The bigger picture of the battle and the overall war is not lost on any of those honored by the recognition.

“We weren’t the real heroes out there,” said Darin, the pararescue team leader on the evening of March 3. “The real heroes were the guys (who) didn’t make it home.”

“We weren’t the real heroes out there – the real heroes were the guys (who) didn’t make it home.”
– Darin
pararescue team leader

Mission complete: SUPT Class 03-02 graduates today

Compiled from
staff reports

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 03-02 graduates at 10 a.m. today in the Anderson Hall auditorium.

The 52-week SUPT program prepares student pilots for the spectrum of Air Force aircraft and flying missions.

Training begins with three weeks of physiological

and academic training to prepare students for flight.

The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the twin-engine, subsonic T-37 “Tweet.” In the T-37, students learn flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing, aerobatics and formation flying.

After primary training, the future pilots are selected for advanced in-flight training in a specialized track.

The tracks include tanker and cargo aircraft training in the T-1 aircraft; fighter/bomber training in the T-38; turbo propeller aircraft training in the Navy’s T-44; and helicopter training in the Army’s UH-1. Advanced training in a track takes about 26 weeks.

Graduates of Class 03-02 have been assigned to aircraft at duty stations throughout the world.



Capt. Jason Riera
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.
Class leader



2nd Lt. Daniel King
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.
Assistant class leader



Capt. Zachary Lister
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



Capt. Ronald Shivers
KC-135, Kadena AB, Japan



1st Lt. Cory Duffy
RC-135, Offutt AFB, Neb.



1st Lt. Eric Janski
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. James Badgett
T-6, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Scot Berk
C-5, Dover AFB, Del.



2nd Lt. Adam Goodpasture
B-52, Barksdale AFB, La.



2nd Lt. Zachary Hall
T-1, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Kristen Höeckel
C-130, Baltimore, Md. (ANG)



2nd Lt. Richard Huth
A-10, Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Matthew Jasperson
C-130, Pope AFB, N.C.



2nd Lt. Robert Kryzak
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz. (ANG)



2nd Lt. Joshua Ney
T-38, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Alan Partridge
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. Jeff Personius
F-15, Tyndall AFB, Fla.



2nd Lt. Jacob Ramirez
C-17, McChord AFB, Wash.



2nd Lt. Michael Reilly
T-37, Laughlin AFB



2nd Lt. Matthew Reynolds
F-16, Luke AFB, Ariz.



2nd Lt. Bradley Rueter
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.



2nd Lt. John Urso
C-17, Charleston AFB, S.C.

Security forces explain the mysteries of FPCONs

By 2nd Lt.
Sarah Bragg
Wing anti-terrorism officer

Recently, Americans realized that simply being within our borders does not make us immune to terrorism, which causes us to pay more attention to threat information. The response to this kind of information usually starts with a change in our Force Protection Condition. The established actions of the FPCONs are focused on preventing a successful

terrorist act at the level at which the threat exists. Of course, everyone has seen the official definitions of the FPCONs on the brightly colored signs, but what do they all really mean? In layman's terms they are:

nFPCON Normal: Not much information on terrorist activity; keep your eyes open

nFPCON Alpha: Terrorist activity exists somewhere; catch them before they get us

nFPCON Bravo: Increased terrorist activity and/

or more information; stay on your toes

nFPCON Charlie: Specific terrorist activity is coming our way; hunker down

nFPCON Delta: Terrorists have attacked or will attack this base; time for all-out defense

FPCON situations vary, and the security forces personnel respond accordingly. They are directed to take specific measures in response to the information received. At times, FPCON Bravo may require airmen to meet a pizza delivery person

at the gate, whereas, in other instances, it may be delivered to their door under the same FPCON. Please don't blame the gate guard. He or she is simply enforcing the rules they've been given, based on intelligence available.

While at times inconvenient, SF personnel are required to perform random antiterrorism measures, for the security of the base. As the name states, they are done at random times for varying amounts of time. They are done with the idea

that if the base is being watched, a terrorist won't be able to figure out the best time to come through the gate.

Laughlin hasn't seen FPCON Normal since Sept. 11. America has previously forgotten incidents quickly, but the events of 11 September 2001 have continued to impact how the nation does business. The security forces personnel will continue to consider appropriate FPCON measures based on the known threat and enforce standards accordingly.



One man’s ordeal brings focus to mission

By Tech. Sgt. Mitch Gettle
*320 Air Expenditionary Wing
Public Affairs*

OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AFPN) – An Air Force KC-135 Stratotanker crew evacuated a merchant mariner to a forward-deployed location for surgery after his leg was amputated in an accident while his ship was leaving port in the Arabian Gulf.

George Benson, 2nd mate on the USN Watson, was transported to the port city’s hospital after a messenger line caught his ankle and amputated his right leg. After medics gave him blood and stabilized him, they brought him to a field clinic for a forward-deployed U.S. base. From there, the KC-135 crew transported Benson to the 320th Expeditionary Medical Group’s hospital for immediate surgery.

“It had been more than six hours

since the amputation when Mr. Benson arrived,” said Maj. (Dr.) James Keeney, 320th Expeditionary Medical Squadron orthopedic surgeon. “The main goal was to stop the bleeding and clean the wound to prevent infection.”

Even though the operation could not save his leg, it did aid in saving his life.

“This whole operation and the existence of such a place as this in a far-off land, is the only thing that saved my life,” said Benson. “One of my wishes is that someday I could bring my family here to meet the people responsible for saving my life, but I know that may not be possible under these conditions.”

Benson sees everyone involved as heroes; not only the 320th Air Expeditionary Wing’s operation, but also the host nation, the initial response of his crew mates, the crew

and medics on the KC-135.

“I can tell you my first thought was I wanted to die, I told one of the crew to give me a gun so I can shoot myself,” said Benson. “But this group here, with their professionalism and outstanding care has influenced me to look at my life (differently), more (positively).”

Looking back to the first moments of the ordeal, Benson still had a presence of mind.

“I was laying in my own blood. I could see it, one-half inch deep, and I knew I was dead,” Benson said. “I radioed the captain to tell my wife and children that I will always love them.”

Benson has two very young boys and that thought hit home with him.

“I don’t know how I can support them at this time – playing catch or teaching them how to sail,” Benson said as tears welled his eyes. “But, I do know this, the people here have

given me hope, told me about ways to overcome this, and I will.”

Hope and the everlasting will of someone to see something through to the end, George Benson has it and has shown it to the people here.

To show their appreciation from the inspiration and courage Benson displayed, the 320th EMEDS presented Benson a U.S. flag, which was flown over Afghanistan on Sept. 11, a certificate, a 320th EMEDS T-shirt and a wing coin.

“Sometimes, we wonder why we are here and what’s our purpose,” said Col. Suzanne Hansen, 320th EMDG commander, as she presented Benson the gifts. “We now know. We are here for you – you are our hero.”

With a grin and as his eyes welled with tears, Benson quietly said, “Nah, I think you have that the other way around.”

Chapel Schedule

Catholic

- Saturday* ● 5 p.m., Mass
- Sunday* ● 9:30 a.m., Mass
- 11 a.m., Little Rock Scripture Study in Chapel Fellowship Hall
- Thursday* ● 6 p.m., Choir
- Reconciliation* ● By appointment
- Religious Education*

- 11 a.m. Sunday

Jewish

- Call Max Stool at 775-4519

Muslim

- Call Mostafa Salama at 768-9200

Nondenominational

- Sunday* ● 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour
- Friday* ● 7 p.m., Unity in Community Fellowship
- Every day* ● 12 to 1 p.m., prayer hour

Protestant

- Saturday* ● 9 a.m., Singles Bible study at the Chaparral Dining facility
- Sunday* ● 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., Sunday school
- 11 a.m., General worship
- Wednesday* ● 10 a.m., Women’s Bible study
- 7 p.m., Choir at chapel

Commander enforces new wing fitness policy here

By Airman 1st Class Yvonne Conde
staff writer

The 47th Flying Training Wing commander recently directed squadron commanders and division chiefs to establish a fitness program aimed at increasing physical fitness for military members here.

Col. Dan Woodward signed a wing fitness policy letter Nov. 13 to ensure Laughlin airmen are in accordance with the Air Force fitness program and the Air Education and Training Command's physical conditioning program established by Gen. Donald Cook, AETC commander.

General Cook expressed

the importance of people beginning their military careers with a regular regime of physical fitness and to continue a fitness routine throughout their career. "A balanced lifestyle to include physical conditioning will improve the general health of our people and mission accomplishment," the general said in his policy letter.

Fun and challenging physical conditioning options should be available for airmen here to meet the required physical demands without interrupting the base's mission, Colonel Woodward noted in the policy letter. As a minimum, squadron commanders and division chiefs should de-

velop an energized unit fitness program that allows airmen to exercise three times per week during duty hours, on an individual basis or as a unit.

"If necessary, supervisors may need to look at shifting or extending duty hours to allow time for physical training," Colonel Woodward said. "It may take some creativity in some cases, but I'm sure that with the right focus and effort, opportunities can be found."

According to General Cook's policy letter, civilian employees who desire to participate in an exercise program during the duty day may also be accommodated to the extent possible by the use

of a flexible work schedule.

The American College of Sports Medicine recommends that people participate in aerobic activities at a minimum of three times per week, strength conditioning at least twice per week and adding a flexibility section at least three time per week, said Hank Bowman, 47th FTW fitness program manager.

"All components can be safely accomplished on the same day, in sequence, if time is a roadblock," he said. "All Air Force members are directed to participate in a regular and consistent exercise program throughout their military career and into retirement. In addition to the

health and fitness benefits, regular exercise has been proven to increase force readiness. With the current operations tempo, one can easily see why readiness is paramount."

"The Air Force provides facilities and programs," General Cook said. "Let's fully utilize them to maintain a fit and healthy force."

Wellness 101 class, which covers exercise and nutrition, is offered every Wednesday at 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the health and wellness center conference room.

For more information, or to speak with a fitness program manager, call Hank Bowman at 298-6464.

Any concerns about work, Laughlin or the Air Force should be addressed through the chain of command. If problems persist, contact the Inspector General, Lt. Col. Peter Godwin at 298-5638.





The Air Force rewards good ideas with money. Check out the IDEA Program data system at <https://ideas.randolph.af.mil>, or call 298-5236.

